MR. CHAIRMAN: This question need not be answered. Q. No. 184.

Live Broadcast of Social, Political and Cultural Events in the Country

*184. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from news reading, Doordarshan has no other regular means of live broadcast of social, political and cultural activities in the country; and

(b) if so, whether any steps would be taken by Government to broadcast other social events?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Very good answer, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: Still have you any question?

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Very good answer, but I have some clarifications.

I am putting my first supplementary. Just like our newspaper reporters who are very keen on investigative journalism, why can't Doordarshan depute some reporters in bulk in search of news instead of waiting for the news to come to their door-step and showing an attitude of the Government Department? They can investigate and collect details about current live issues like various scams and they can get the opinion of the people and leaders over it. The Doordarshan can even think of a serial on it so that views of various people may be publicised. Even politicians involved in the scams can find out where they failed, and the mistake can be corrected in future dealing. You can even think of sponsored shows. You should give more freedom to the reporters of the Doordarshan. At present Doordarshan has got the look of a Government Department. Will the Minister change it?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I first took over this Ministry, in the first review meeting itself, I have already discussed this subject with my officials. With regard to the coverage of the news by the Doordarshan, I had quoted one example to them. The election results would be going on coming, but the candidates who have already got elected would be on the streets with victory processions. In the meantime, the Doordarshan would be announcing that so and so candidate was leading by 10,000 votes and in some other constituency, counting was still going on. I have told them that this was not practical. My officials have told me that until and unless the Election Commission declares that so and so candidate is elected they cannot declare him as elected. I am just giving this example here.

The second thing which I have requested them is: to have a news collector at least at the district level; and he should be given well-equipped equipement so that he can pass on the information live to the centre directly. We are taking it up in our Ministry. I will see that whatever news is available is got as early as possible.

As regards what the hon. Member said about news searching, let us start with the district level. At least at the district level, I can have a news gatherer for Doordarshan. Now, as it is, we are depending on the PTI, the UNI and other news agencies. At some places, we have got our own network also. But it has not been extended throughout the country. We will try to extend this throughout the country and we will try to give news as early as possible.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: How is the international channel of Doordarshan doing? What was the object behind the establishment of such a channel? If it was for winning friends and influencing fore-

ign governments, I would like to know whether there was any success in it? could you explain our stand on the CTBT to the people of other nations using this channel? Finally, I would like to know whether it is a financially viable project.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, it is a very ticklish question because , as far as this international channel is concerned, I have to accept that we have not achieved anything out of it. Now I am thinking whether we should continue it or stop it.

सर, इंटरनेशनल चैनल में होता क्या है कि अगर हम इंटरनेशनल चैनल दे भी दें तो जब तक वहां के लोकल केबल आपरेटर्स उसको नहीं दिखाते हैं तो लोग उसको देखते नहीं हैं। My Ministry is thinking whether we can continue this or we can stop this.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: कुछ सर्वे हुआ है उसका?

श्री सी० एम० इब्राहीम: सर्वे शुरू करवाया है।

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: आप परफारमेंस दिखाते हैं हरेक प्रोग्राम की, इंटरनेशनल चैनल की भी दिखाइए।

श्री सी० एम० इब्राहीम: मैंने कहा है कि इसका सर्वे करें और इसकी डिटेल्ड रिपोर्ट पेश करें। वह रिपोर्ट आने के बाद जल्द से जल्द इस पर कार्यवाही की जाएगी।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, the question is whether there are any proposals to telecast live social, political and cultural activities in the country. I would like to put this supplementary. The most important political and cultural activities in the country are taking place in the courts now because there is so much of judicial activism going on. I would like to know whether there is any proposal in the Ministry to telecast live proceedings in the major courts in the country—the Supreme Court and the High Courts—as they have been doing in Parliament.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, as it is, there is no such proposal before the Government.

श्री रामजीलाल: सभापति महोदय, सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री ने कहा है कि दूरदर्शन के पास समाचार वाचन को छोड़कर देश में आयोजित सामाजिक, राजनैतिक और सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों का सीधा प्रसारण करने के कोई नियमित साधन नहीं हैं और दूसरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा है कि प्रश्न नहीं उठता। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि इसका दूसरा रास्ता क्या है? राजनीतिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों का किस प्रकार से प्रसारण किया जा सकता है?

श्री सी० एम० इब्राहीम: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैंने कहा है कि न्यूज के अलावा और भी दूसरी सोशल ऐक्टीविटीज़ हम दिखा रहे हैं। मैंने यह नहीं कहा है कि दिखा नहीं रहे हैं। मेरे विचार में काफी ऐक्टीविटीज़ हम दिखा रहे हैं, पोलिटिकल ऐक्टीविटीज़ दिखा रहे हैं, सोशल और कल्चरल ऐक्टीविटीज़ दिखा रहे हैं, स्पोर्ट्स दिखा रहे हैं और दूसरी चीजें दिखा रहे हैं।

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा: मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि पिछले 5 वर्षों के अंदर दूरदर्शन का नेटवर्क बहुत बढ़ गया है। पहले हम केवल कुछ घंटों का प्रसारण करते थे लेकिन अब चैनल भी बढ़ गए हैं और घंटे भी बढ़ गए हैं लेकिन दूरदर्शन संवाददाताओं की संख्या घटती चली जा रही है। एक तो इनकी नियुक्ति का कोई क्राईटीरिया नहीं है। देखा गया है कि कई बार ऐसे ही एड्होक अपोइंट करते हैं, फिर उसके बाद उनको रेग्यूलर करने की कोशिश करते हैं। कितने संवाददाता बढ़े हैं और उनके प्रशिक्षण का क्या नेटवर्क है और संवाददाताओं की संख्या क्या है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of family courts in States

*185. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of States have not set up family courts in consultaion with their respective High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for which family courts have not been set up in these States; and